

**REMARKS**

Applicant's attorney is pleased to note that the Office Action mailed June 24, 2004 indicates that Claims 16, 17, 21-23, 25, 29, 30, 32 and 34-37 have been allowed, and that Claims 19, 39-44 and 47-50 contain allowable subject matter. By the foregoing amendments, Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the features recited in its base claim (i.e., independent Claim 15) and its intervening claim (i.e., dependent Claims 18), Claim 39 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the features recited in its base claim (i.e., independent Claim 20), and Claim 50 has been rewritten in independent form to include all features recited in its base claim (i.e., independent Claim 33). In the foregoing circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 19, 39 and 50 are in condition for allowance.

With respect to Claims 40-44, they depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent Claim 39 (Claims 40, 43 and 44 have been amended to depend from Claim 39 rather than Claim 20). Likewise, Claims 47-49 depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent Claim 50 (Claim 47 has been amended to depend from Claim 50 rather than from Claim 33). In such circumstances, it is believed that Claims 40-44 and 47-49 are also in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims (i.e., Claims 15, 18, 20, 33, 45 and 46) have been rejected on prior art grounds based upon U.S. Patent No. 4,598,946 to Cone or U.S. Patent No. 3,837,610 to Ewers. These rejections have been obviated by the cancellation of Claims 15, 18, 20, 33, 45 and 46.

Appln. No. 09/975,620  
Amdt. dated September 24, 2004  
Reply to Office Action mailed June 24, 2004

As a result of an earlier restriction requirement, Claims 24, 26-28 and 38 have been withdrawn. In order to better place this application in condition for allowance, applicant's attorney has canceled Claims 24, 26-28 and 38.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant and his attorney respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this application. Should there remain any questions or other matters whose resolution could be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at his number below.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Amendment. If there are any fees due as a result of this Amendment, including extension and petition fees, the Examiner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 501402.

Respectfully Submitted,

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